

In the claims

Please amend claim 1. The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of peroxides in low sulfur, middle distillate fuels comprising the steps of:

providing a middle distillate fuel having a sulfur content of about 50 ppm or less;

combining the fuel with an organic nitrate combustion improver;

maintaining the combined fuel and organic nitrate combustion improver at a temperature below 70 degrees Celsius;

wherein the amount of organic nitrate combustion improver combined with the fuel reduces the amount of peroxides in the fuel as compared with a middle distillate fuel without the organic nitrate combustion improver.
2. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the organic nitrate combustion improver comprises 2-ethylhexyl nitrate.
3. (Original) A method as described in claim 2, wherein the 2-ethylhexyl nitrate is combined in an amount of from about 100 to 5000 ppm wt. of the fuel.
4. (Original) A method as described in claim 3, wherein the 2-ethylhexyl nitrate is combined in an amount of about 2500 ppm wt. of the fuel.
5. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the middle distillate fuel is selected from the group consisting of diesel fuel, biodiesel fuel, burner fuel, kerosene, gas oil, jet fuel, and gas turbine engine fuel.

6. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the fuel has a sulfur content of about 20 ppm or less.
7. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the fuel has a sulfur content of about 10 ppm or less.
8. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the fuel further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of: corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, anti-rust agents, detergents and dispersants, fuel lubricity additives, demulsifiers, dyes, inert diluents, cold flow improvers, conductivity agents, metal deactivators, stabilizers, antifoam additives, de-icers, biocides, odorants, drag reducers, combustion improvers, e.g., including MMT, oxygenates and like materials.

Claims 9-53 (Withdrawn)